

Cross Beams

NEWSLETTER OF THE HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH, E.L.C.A. January 2019

*The purpose of
Holy Cross Evangelical
Lutheran Church
is to know, and joyfully
share, the love of God
in Christ.*

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Pianist, Joyce Bjork

Pastor's Pulse

The early Church Fathers knew that the birth of Jesus was not an event nor a message that could be comprehended or digested in just one short day known as Christmas.

Let's set aside twelve whole days devoted exclusively to reviewing and celebrating the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem. We need at least that much time to gaze upon the scene, rehearse the Gospel writers and bask in the awesome Good News it heralds.

The very first knowledge we gain from the first day or night of Jesus' birth is that he is sent from God to be the Savior of all mankind. This was emphasized when the announcement was made to the shepherds whose occupation and station in life was considered the lowest of the low and unwanted.

Also included in the Christmas story were the "wise men," the upper crust, those of high esteem and sought after by multitudes.

Somewhere in the middle of those two extremes is where you and I are situated and where we have been chosen to hear the Good News proclaimed to us. This is where we hear that the Savior has been sent to bring God's gracious gifts of forgiveness, reconciliation, peace, joy, hope and love and that life is abundant and eternal.

No wonder that the early Church Fathers made Christmas a twelve-day celebration.

Lift up your heads, my people, and listen with your ears to the message that God's angels are bringing to you and for your salvation. Then open wide your hearts to receive him and give him a home.

HOW BLESSED WE ARE

Yes, how blessed we are! Our Winter Texan friends are returning. We love you. You are such an important part of our church family. You are church family. You worship and fellowship with us. You participate in so many ways. We love that. Yes, YOU, our Winter Texan friends are more special to us at Holy Cross than you know. God bless you all!



All in the Family

This member grew up in Fort Atkinson, Wisconsin. Brrr. In High School he played four years of soccer, ran track; how about this, he played bass violin in the school production of Oliver.

The High School's Christian Youth group was very important to him. His focus was "Living in Faith," and as a part of the group he went on five mission trips. The trip involved things such as serving meals in shelters, building trails at boys and girls camps, playing games with young children, walking dogs at animal shelters, etc. The trips took him to Ohio, Kentucky, Minnesota and twice to Missouri.

For college he first attended Indiana University majoring in history, with a primary focus on Asian history, but also an emphasis on U.S. history. He then went to Eastern Illinois to get a Master's degree in Historical Administration. Ever heard of that before? And, it was while there, he did an internship at a historical cabin in Illinois where he taught people about the 1860s. He also created an exhibit about Illinois for their Bicentennial.

In May of 2018, after receiving his Master's Degree in Historical Administration, he came to Rockport. He accepted a job here as Education Director for the Maritime Museum. There he performs a variety of duties including hosting school groups, military groups, senior groups, etc.

In July, thankfully, he became a regular at Holy Cross. When asked what he liked most, he answered, the friendly people and Pastor's jokes!

REFLECTING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST'S LOVE



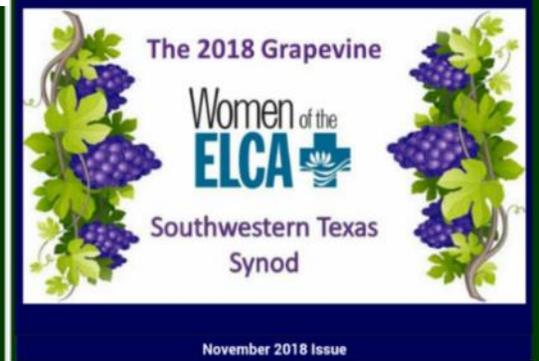
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

2018 - 2019 Board



Dinah Halopka-Ryson - President, Debra Mattke - Vice President, Rebecca Vela Bishop - Secretary, Cindy Hilliard - Treasurer, Randa Bruce Gonzales - Alamo Conference, Barbara Hartman - Bluebonnet Conference, Beth Schroeder - Capital North Conference, Peggy Horton - Capital South Conference, Lynna Kraus - Cibolo Creek Conference, Cassandra Chollet - Gulf Coast Conference, Annabel Wilkinson - Hill Country Conference, Linda Nicholas - Rio Grande Conference, Leslie Ahrens - Board Member At Large.



Our own Cassandra Chollet is a board member of the Southwest Texas Synod Women of the ELCA. On January 8th at 3:00 pm we will be hosting a Tea for all of the women at Holy Cross to better understand the role of WELCA and many of the projects that are special to this group. Along with this we will also be discussing Women's Bible Study and hope that all of you will come and join us for this informative fellowship. On January 10th we will begin a new Bible Study presented by Toni Post on Paul's letter to the Ephesians. Please join us for these events.



Mary McMurray was our mystery "All in the Family" highlighted member last month.



Men's Breakfast

Every Thursday the men of Holy Cross meet at 8:00 am for a morning of good food and fellowship. Come join us if you can. We have a great time.

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

Sterling Frank : Treasurer

Nov. Treasurer's Report

Operating Fund Spending: \$16,931
Operating Fund Giving: \$11,108
2017 November Giving: \$12,130

Contents: \$19,311

Rebuild Offerings: \$39,009



SAVE THE DATE

On Saturday, February 9th at 5:00 pm we will begin an evening of music and follow it with food and fellowship. We will start with a musical concert. We are blessed to have so many musically talented individuals in our congregation. In addition to the choir doing several numbers, there will be a number of individuals, at least twelve, doing songs and playing instruments. And get this, the concert will focus on old favorites (think popular songs in the 50s and 60s), think country western and think..... It's going to be fun.

After the music, Debbie will coordinate a potluck meal. It will be great as they always are!

Put it on your calendar, February 9th at 5:00pm for music, fellowship and fun.

January 2019

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

		1	2 9:00-3:00 Castaways	3 8:00 Men's Breakfast Taqueria Vallarta	4	5
6 EPIPHANY 10:30 Worship	7 9:00-12:00 Castaways	8 3:00 pm Ladies Tea 5:00 pm Choir Practice	9 9:00-3:00 Castaways	10 8:00 Men's Breakfast Taqueria Vallarta 9:30 Women's Bible Study	11	12
13 9:00 Bible Study 10:30 Worship with Communion Good Samaritan Sunday	14 9:00-12:00 Castaways 7:00 Council Meeting	15 5:00 pm Choir Practice	16 9:00-3:00 Castaways	17 8:00 Men's Breakfast Taqueria Vallarta	18	19
20 9:00 Bible Study 10:30 Worship With Communion Annual Meeting	21 9:00-12:00 Castaways	22 5:00 pm Choir Practice	23 9:00-3:00 Castaways	24 8:00 Men's Breakfast Taqueria Vallarta	25	26
27 9:00 Bible Study 10:30 Worship Noisy Offering	28 9:00-12:00 Castaways	29 5:00 pm Choir Practice	30 9:00-3:00 Castaways	31 8:00 Men's Breakfast Taqueria Vallarta		

Council Person of the Week: Jan. 6-Butch Porter, Jan. 13-Angela Jeschke, Jan. 20-Craig Brown
Jan. 27-Debbie Outten

Assistant Ministers: Jan. 6-Vicky Hingst, Jan. 13-Toni Post, Jan. 20-Mary McMurray, Jan. 27-
Linda Haynes

The ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING will be held on January 20, 2019 after worship service.



This is our first Advent-ure during Advent season. We spent the night making Advent wreaths. All had a ball!



These are some of the finished wreaths that were constructed during our great Advent-ure.



Here are more participants making Advent wreaths. All were fully engaged in this fun Advent-ure.



Our third Advent-ure was an evening spent decorating the Christmas tree and the sanctuary. All had a fun time and Pastor explained the meaning of many of the Crismons that adorn our tree.



Debbie and Cliff Outten, our proverbial menu planners and chefs, put on some great light suppers during our Advent-ures.



Caroling was our second Advent-ure. Our group performed at Gulf Pointe Plaza. All enjoyed the music and fun.



We have great cookies and fellowship at Holy Cross!! The fellowship hall is beginning to fill up. What a great time to meet our fellow members and friends.